

## Press release / Media release

### Organic seed database [www.organicXseeds.de](http://www.organicXseeds.de) presented at Biofach trade fair

**(Frankfurt, 21.2.2004) organicXseeds, the Internet-based database operated by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), is the official database for organic seed and potato planting material in Germany. This implements Regulation EC/1452/2003, which obliges all EU member states to set up from 1 January 2004 onwards an Internet-based database for organic seed and thus to improve market transparency. On Saturday, 21 February, at the Biofach trade fair (in the Prag room, 13:00), Klaus-Peter Wilbois of FiBL Germany will present the organicXseeds database and the opportunities that this offers to users, suppliers and certifiers.**

Organic farming standards require the use of organically produced seed and planting material if such is available on the market. organicXseeds, the Internet-based database, provides this information. Only when no suitable seed or planting material is available on the market are farmers and gardeners exempted from the rule and allowed to use conventional seed or planting material. The rules are a further step towards comprehensive EU-wide supply of organically produced seed and planting material. They give plant breeders and seed producers a signal to expand their commitment in this sector.

The German regional states (Länder) commissioned FiBL to set up and administer organicXseeds. Producers are now able to gain rapid access to the latest information on seed availability. Seed suppliers can update their listings on a daily basis.

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organicXseeds is available in six European languages. In addition to Germany and Switzerland, it shall also be used as the official verification database in the United Kingdom, in Belgium and in Luxembourg.

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